

TALON



Operation Joint Forge

Saturday, September 15, 2001

Task Force Eagle

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Internal Reaction Force: On Call 24-7

Pentagon Hit by Hijacked Plane

Secretary of the Army Visits Bosnia

What Were You Doing When...?

Often we measure our lives by the significant events that happen to our nation, our communities and ourselves. Most of our parents and grandparents measure their lives around national events such as Pearl Harbor, the Cuban Missile Crisis or President Kennedy's assassination. They can even tell you what they were doing when these events happened - and you can be sure they remember what they felt in those moments.

I cannot imagine that our generation will find a more defining moment than that which happened on Sept. 11, 2001. Most of us will never forget what we were doing when we first heard the news or the emotions we felt at that moment.

After the initial shock and disbelief, I found myself thinking about the tremendous loss of life and the heartache of so many of their families and friends. I thought about the courage of the firefighters and policemen who were trying to save the lives of others when the building collapsed. I thought of the many caregivers - doctors, nurses, hospital workers, counselors and so many others - who would be pushed to and beyond their human capabilities. I felt a deep sorrow, a growing frustration and anger toward whoever could do such a thing. And I felt the nagging anxiety of the question everyone was asking, "why?"

In response to what had just happened, our chaplains offered a special prayer service. We read the scriptures where the Psalmist pronounced "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble." We heard the words of Isaiah, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you." We were comforted by the voice of Jesus, "Peace, my peace I leave with you...let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Words were sought to give comfort as we grieved over the certainty of death and the uncertainty that comes with being in this far away land.

Before the chaplain's prayer, soldiers requested prayer for the families of those who died, for those who were caregivers, and for those who would inevitably discover that friends and loved ones were involved in this senseless tragedy. Then in the midst of the prayer meeting one young soldier offered a prayer request that gave pause to every person in the room. He said, "I want us to pray for those who caused this evil thing to happen." His prayer concern was humbling. In the midst of our fears, anger and our need for comfort, he asked us to care about those who caused devastation to our fellow Americans.

Truly, this young soldier put it all into perspective for us. In our pain and in our loss, can we care for those who are our enemies? There was something about his prayer request that challenged us to transcend our humanity and do something divine. And at that moment, we knew that we were about to do the will of God. As painful as it was, we joined our hearts and prayed even for those who caused us hurt. And in doing so we found the comfort that we so desperately desired.

May God continue to comfort you.

Thoughts for the Week

Saturday: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." **Hebrews 4:16**

Sunday: "Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings." **Psalm 63:7**

Monday: "Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer." **Psalm 4:1**

Tuesday: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." **Philippians 4:6**

Wednesday: "...where does my help come from? My help comes from the lord, the maker of heaven and earth." **Psalm 121:1**

Thursday: "Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." **Matthew 5:4**

Friday: "The lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." **Psalm 23:1,4**

Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Durham
Eagle Base

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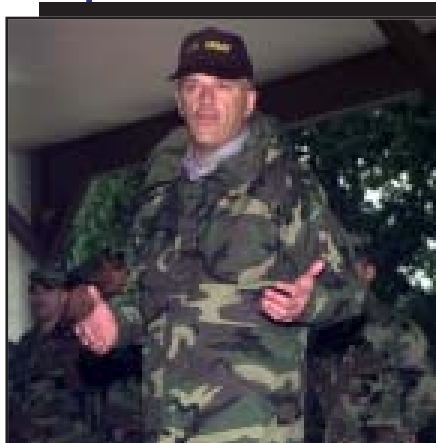
ON THE COVER 10

Spc. Larry Ruduseal monitors civilians performing maintenance on a commercial jet that landed at Tuzla International airport. Airport security is just one of the numerous missions of the Internal Reaction Force. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



PENTAGON IN PIECES 4

The Pentagon was hit by a hijacked jetliner just minutes after World Trade Center towers met the same fate. (Photo by Paul Disney, USA)



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY VISITS TROOPS 5

Secretary Thomas White discusses hot topics such as force reductions and active-duty and reserve component relationships. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy)

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Terrorist Attack Rocks Pentagon

Hijacked jet crashes into structure; two others bring down World Trade Center

Compiled from articles written by American Forces Information Service Staff Writers

The Pentagon was a target Tuesday of an alleged terrorist attack, which followed other alleged attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Workers inside the Defense Department headquarters in Arlington, Va., estimated that a blast occurred around 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, which shook the building and produced a billowing gray-black smoke plume that could be seen for miles.

Army Maj. Jeff Mockensturm said he was in a meeting in Room 3D450 at that time when an explosion erupted with a blinding orange light. Authorities confirmed that a commercial airliner, possibly hijacked, had crashed into the building.

"It felt like it was right outside the window," Mockensturm said, who works for Army's program analysis and evaluation office. "The window cracked, the ceiling shook, the floor shook. I felt like it was an earthquake, like the whole building was going to collapse." The major joined thousands of other Pentagon employees who had been evacuated after the attack.

One Army lieutenant colonel who worked near the building segment hit by the plane said everyone in his office was gathered around the television watching coverage of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City when the plane crashed into the Pentagon.

"We felt a thump and saw the flash," said the lieutenant colonel. "All of us and others gathered and went toward the site. We couldn't get close."

The lieutenant colonel said all the people in his section evacuated the building and met outside. "There was no panic," he said. "Most people went in a calm and orderly way." He said it wasn't until after he and

his co-workers

left the building that they realized the extent of the damage.

The aircraft crash at the Pentagon followed two others minutes earlier at the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Both 110-story buildings later collapsed. Authorities said they believed terrorists had hijacked all three planes involved.

Back at the Pentagon, gray-black smoke billowed as an Air Force F-16 fighter circled overhead, on patrol for another airliner reportedly flying in the area. No airliner was intercepted.

Part of the building hit collapsed; firefighters continued to battle the flames for 24 hours after the attack. The building



A plane crash set the Pentagon ablaze Sept. 11, 2001, less than an hour after suspected terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York and destroyed the twin 110-story buildings. (Photo by Paul Disney, USA)



The Pentagon is laid out in five "rings," "E" being the outermost and "A" the innermost. The jet cut the building like a knife, but did reach the "B" ring.

was evacuated, as were other federal buildings in the Capitol, including the White House.

President George W. Bush said on Tuesday that the United States would find those responsible for the apparent terrorist attacks in New York City and in Washington.

"Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts," Bush said from an undisclosed location outside of Washington.

President Bush sent a warning to countries that turn a blind eye to terrorist activities within their borders.

"The search is under way for those who are behind these evil acts. I have directed the full resources of our intelligence and law-enforcement

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Secretary of the Army Brings Answers, Optimism to SFOR 9 Soldiers

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Eagle Base

The secretary of the Army told soldiers in Bosnia that, "you truly are making a difference in this part of the world" during a visit to the Balkans Sept. 6.

Thomas White, making his first trip to the region since his confirmation in May, braved a steady downpour while stopping at Eagle Base and Camp Comanche for briefings on the state of the Stabilization Force mission, as well as speaking with soldiers.

"Thank you for a great job – we are all very proud of what you've done, and you should be proud of what you've done to sustain the great history of the Marne Division," he said. SFOR 9, commanded by the 3rd Infantry (Marne) Division, is nearing the end of its year-long tour.

Secretary White received operational briefings from soldiers of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and 2nd Battalion, 121 Infantry, Georgia National Guard. While at Camp Comanche, Sec. White presented the Army Achievement Medal to several soldiers in an end of tour ceremony.

Quality of life for soldiers, retention, potential force reductions and the active-duty/reserve component relationship were issues discussed by Sec. White as he talked with soldiers and posed for photos with them.

"It seems stupid after you have someone who serves for 20 years and wants to stay (in the Army) but hasn't been promoted or something, but does a great job – why don't they stay?" Sec. White asked rhetorically. "Why can't we have promotions and retentions so people stay?"

The secretary told assembled soldiers that both the active duty and reserve components have met their recruiting goals for this year, with the active component recently swearing in its 75,800 soldier. "No corporation in America can say that," he noted.

While speaking with members of TF 2-3 Aviation, White remarked on the discussions on Capitol Hill about potential force structure cuts in the future.

"That ain't gonna happen," he told the soldiers in TF 2-3's Tactical Operations Center.

"What I've told (Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld) is – if you want to make the Army smaller, then tell me what I get to stop doing, which deployment do I not go to? The Army we've got is already over-deployed."

He praised the aviators for their outstanding operational readiness ratings and the extra effort put forth to keep the helicopters flying.

The Army's 18th secretary, escorted by Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, commanding general, MND(N) and 3rd ID, listened as Lt. Col. Reed Dunn, commander, 2-121, discussed his task force's capabilities and responsibilities. When speaking of the Bradley Fighting Vehicles at his disposal, Maj. Gen. Sharp told the secretary, "We haven't had to use them in the year we've been here."

To that White replied, "But everyone knows they're here, and that's the point."

The Georgia Guard soldiers are responsible for patrolling one of the most contentious areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Eastern Republic of Srpska. This area includes the town of Srebrenica where one of the worst atrocities occurred during the nearly four-year war. More than 7,000 Bosnian-Muslim men were separated from their families July 11, 1995, and massacred over the next several days.

Sec. White took time to promote and reenlist several soldiers at the Eagle Base Airfield before departing. One of those soldiers, Sgt. Luis Mendoza, said he was thrilled to be promoted from corporal by the secretary of the army.

"It was an honor," said Sgt. Mendoza, who works in the information operations office. "Something like this just doesn't happen everyday."

Capt. Juan Mejia, also promoted by Sec.



Secretary of the Army Thomas White addresses soldiers at the G-1 Fest Tent on Eagle Base. Sec. White promoted several soldiers during his visit Sept. 6.

White, echoed those sentiments.

"I jumped at the chance to be promoted by him," said Capt. Mejia, who is stationed at Fort Stewart and serves as an engineer plans officer here. "It was a truly rewarding experience."

The cohesive mix of National Guard, Army Reserves and active-duty soldiers during SFOR rotations past and future brought accolades from the secretary as he prepared to depart for Kosovo.

"All three components are here – working together, training together, living together, operating together," he said. "You can't tell one from another. The rhetoric we have always talked about – being one Army – we're actually doing it. There is proof behind the substance that we are one Army, and I think that's wonderful."

Some have questioned the Balkans mission, Secretary White noted, but SFOR soldiers can look back on their work with pride.

"We all know about the loss of life, and we are here stopping that. Consequently, there is a chance for the people who live in this part of the world to have a reasonable life going forward," he said. "If we live to be 100, we can look back and say we made a difference right here," he said.

In 1998, then-Brig. Gen. White and then-Maj. Walter Sharp served together in the 11th Cavalry Regiment. "He's done pretty good for himself," Sec. White quipped of the current commanding general of MND(N).



223rd Military Police Provide

Military Police have always symbolized peace and stability for servicemembers. The 223rd Military Police Company held true to this ideal by providing constant service and surveillance to all of MND(N). They did this through law and order patrols, searching for potential breeches in the fence that could mean a threat to soldiers and civilians inside the wire. The MPs also conducted building inspections with K-9 units, searching for any illegal substances or weapons that could be considered dangerous. Escorting vehicles from basecamp to basecamp was another duty the MPs took on to ensure force protection. On base camps, they enforced traffic regulations and aided in traffic accident prevention. These were their tasks, these are their achievements.

Eagle Base

Story by Pfc. Michael Bennett

One hundred and ninety-two thousand miles.

To cover that distance, you'd have to travel 38 times from Bosnia to Louisville, Ky., the home of the 223rd Military Police Company. Covering that distance kept the MPs busy the entire six months of their time in Bosnia.

"We've completed 1,449 missions during our (service) here," said 1st Sgt. William Willhoite, the company first sergeant. "That includes patrols, escorts and security details."

The 223rd, a National Guard unit from Kentucky, with soldiers from Tennessee attached for Operation Joint Forge, completed its deployment in a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 6, handing over the mission to the 372nd MP Co. from Maryland.

The 372nd also has soldiers from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan and Florida, bringing 159 soldiers to SFOR 10.

"We're pretty excited to be here," said Capt. Kelly Davis, the commander of the 372nd. "We're excited to...be taking over

the actual mission."

The 161 soldiers of the 223rd have been very successful in several ways.

"These soldiers have done a great job," said Capt. Shontelle Adams, the commander of the 223rd.

"They've had a 100 percent (success) rate. (However), our main mission has been to assist further stabilization in this country," he said.

The MPs have also had success outside of their main directives, including a combined unit weight loss of 1,747 pounds.

They also raised their average score on the Army Physical Fitness Test by 30 points, with eight soldiers scoring 300 points, the highest rating on the basic scale.

In addition, the soldiers of the 223rd improved their minds as well as

their bodies, taking a combined total of over 3,300 hours of classes and correspondence courses.

Both senior and junior enlisted gained a new perspective from working in Bosnia.

"We tried to help people whenever we could," said Pfc. Melissa McConnell, with

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Spc. Rena Exler, 223rd Military Police Co. carries weapons to be destroyed in Zenica. The weapons were collected as part of Project Harvest and were melted down. (photo by Spc. Grant Calease)

Camp

Story by Spc. Grant Calease

As the end of Stabilization Force 9 draws near, the units begin heading home. Soldiers from 4th Platoon, 223rd Military Police Company, Louisville, Ky., are leaving Bosnia and returning to their civilian lives back in the states.

MPs from the 372nd MP Company, whose members are from of a handful of states on the East Coast, are replacing the 24 soldiers from 4th Platoon. The 372nd will be stationed at Eagle Base and travel to Comanche to provide an MP presence there.

The Kentucky Army National Guard soldiers stationed at Camp Comanche perform many duties and have had a busy stay here in Bosnia.

The 223rd soldiers organized a Quick Reaction Force to respond almost immediately to trouble.

"If anything happens in our area of responsi-



Staff Sgt. Ernest Jackson, a squad leader with the 223rd MP Co., and Sgt. Darrin Potter demonstrate how to handle an out-of-control 'rioter' during a rehearsal ceremony for the Srebrenica Observance. (photo by Sgt. Rhonda Morgan)

Security, Safety and Service

Camp McGovern

Story by Spc. Daniel Lucas

During the last six months, numerous changes have taken place in and around Camp McGovern's area of operation — the arrival and now departure of summer, strangers becoming friends, the start of the school year, the rebuilding of mosques, flooding, and the consolidation of weapon storage sites.

Through all these events, "Wolf Pack," 2nd Platoon, 223rd Military Police, Kentucky National Guard, did their best to ensure that all events, big and small, went smoothly.

"Since we have been here, we have driven 55,000 miles without a single accident, there weren't even any near strikes," said Sgt. 1st Class

Michael Lawrence, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon. "We have assisted in the closing of 12 weapon storage sites, investigated 20 accidents, and searched more than 1,100 personnel involved in the Budapest pass program, and 754 rooms for Health and Welfare inspections."

On a more personal note, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence said, the platoon was also able to find time to complete more than 1,400 hours of correspondence courses and 24 hours of college classes. They did all this, he notes, "with only 25 MPs."

They were also proud of the kinship that developed between them and the Task Force 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry troops. "The soldiers of Wolf Pack have exuded pride and professionalism, as

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Comanche

bility such as a civil disturbance, (the QRF) responds," said Spc. Nick Rohme. "We have people on QRF 24 hours a day. When we get the call we have ten minutes to get to the vehicles," he said.

The platoon rotates its soldiers between QRF duty and law and order each week. The soldiers on law and order keep an eye on the fence as well, making sure there are no breaches in the perimeter, said Spc. Rena Exler, with 4th Platoon.

The soldiers from the 223rd MP Co. also formed a Downed Aircraft Rescue Team. The DART soldier's job is to secure a helicopter crash site, allowing medical and equipment repair teams a safe environment to do their jobs. Team members practice missions at night as well as during the day to ensure they are ready for any emergency that may arise, said Spc. Rohme.

Fortunately, no such accidents occurred and the DART was never needed, but its members enjoyed it nonetheless.

"DART was cool because we got to fly in Blackhawks and work with the aviation. We also learned how to respond in case there was an actual

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Spc. Bruce Garcia, Sgt. Lamont Perry and Sgt. Jennifer McCurry start their mad sprint to the TOC during a force protection exercise. (photo by Spc. Daniel Lucas)



A line of MPs run to an awaiting Blackhawk during their Downed Aircraft Recovery Team training. (photo by Spc. Grant Calease)

M-240B Slowly Replacing M-60

Weapon boasts higher rate of fire, fewer mechanical problems but is heavier than M-60

Story by **Spc. Daniel Lucas**
Camp McGovern

The M-60 is slowly being phased out by the new M-240B machine gun. Its design, based on a German World War II model, is made to give the shooter the ability to use suppressive fire faster and without as many faults as the M-60.

"The two (weapons) are very similar," said Staff Sgt. William Montgomery, squad leader for the motor platoon, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, and a safety on the range at Camp McGovern. "The M-240B doesn't seem to have as many problems with rounds jamming in the chamber as the M-60, but we are just getting used to it. We were just issued the M-240B machine guns before we were deployed."



The M-240B doesn't seem to have as many problems with rounds jamming in the chamber as the M-60. Both weapons fire 7.62 mm bullets.

Staff Sgt. Montgomery noticed there are not many differences between the M-60 and the M-240B.

So what are their characteristics? The new M-240B has a higher rate of fire than the M-60's 550 rounds per minute (cyclic), necessary for successful suppressive fire; it is also heavier than the M-60's 23 pounds and the feed tray cover is different, but they still fire

the same 7.62 mm bullets and have the same range in excess of 1000 meters.

Some of the soldiers who had the chance to fire both of these machine guns had their own opinions of the differences between them.



The M-60 is slowly being phased out by the new M-240B machine gun. Its design is based on a German World War II model.

"The M-60 is a lot more stable," said Staff Sgt. Sean Williams, Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry. "It was also a lighter and more agile weapon. With the M-240, you really have to use your body weight to stabilize the weapon."

Since the transition, all soldiers have to familiarize themselves and qualify with the new weapon. For a lot of soldiers in HHT though, it was a totally new experience altogether, because they had never fired a machine gun before.

"It was a lot different than what I thought," said Spc. Chad Hicks, HHT, 3-7 Cav. "It has a lot more power than the M-16." He noted that it was hard to keep focus and to keep his weight behind the weapon, even with the help of a tripod and sandbags.

"The M-240B fires more effectively without as many jams," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Hernandez, range noncommissioned officer, 3-7 Cav.

"A lot of soldiers who came out here had never fired a machine gun before. The ones that have never fired a machine gun before enjoyed firing the M-240B; the soldiers that have fired the M-60 liked the M-240B better." All Humvee gunners at Camp McGovern are already qualified on the M-240B, however, all 3-7 Cav. troopers got a chance to familiarize themselves with the weapon and qualify at the range at Camp McGovern.

Portuguese Join 1-108th Armor for Training

Story by **Spc. Grant Calease**
Camp Comanche

An international peacekeeping mission, like the one in Bosnia, gives troops of many nations the chance to work together.

That was the case last month at Camp Comanche where a group of Portuguese soldiers were on hand to work with American troops.

"We took them out on patrols so they could get out and see our area of operations and look around. That way they could see what we do and how we do it compared to how they do things in Multinational Division (Southeast)," said Staff Sgt. Chris Cleary, Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor.

The Portuguese soldiers conducted patrols with Co. B as well as Co. A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, said 1st Sgt. Edmundo Batista, 11th Paracoy, 1st Portuguese Battalion. The Portuguese

contingent, which consisted of 70 men, seven armored vehicles and a couple of jeeps, has been in Bosnia since July.

"We started training for this mission in November 1999. We were originally supposed to arrive in January, but were

"Since the Americans have been here for some period of time...we can learn from their experience."

**1st Sgt. Edmundo Batista,
1st Portuguese Battalion**

pushed back until (July)," 1st Sgt. Batista said. In the years preceding their Bosnian deployment the Portuguese troops deployed on peacekeeping missions in East Timor and Kosovo.

The Portuguese soldiers relished the opportunity to learn from the 108th Armor soldiers.

"We are grateful to be working with the Americans. They are familiar with the culture and the terrain. We can learn from their experience," said 1st Sgt. Batista.

The American soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to train with soldiers from another nation as well.

"(They) were outstanding people. They were very polite and nice guys," said Staff Sgt. Cleary. "The only problem I heard from them was that they didn't have enough arms to pick up all the food at the chow hall," he said.

"I've worked with troops from three countries and it seems we all have some things in common. I wish I got a chance to spend a whole week with these guys because they were great guys," said Staff Sgt. Cleary. "They do a really great job. They were professional all the way."

Ga. Students Send Bosnian Children... A Surprise of Supplies

Story and photos by
Cpl. Anthony Koch
Eagle Base

While children of the U.S. celebrated their first holiday of the school year, Labor Day, students in Bosnia were returning to their classrooms to begin the new school year.

The first day back for students of Crossroads Elementary School, about 6 kilometers west of Eagle Base on Route Ostrich, included a visit from their long-lost soldier friends.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, Georgia National Guard, stopped by the school Sept. 3 to deliver school supplies and goodies to the Bosnian children donated by U.S. students, and get reacquainted after the summer apart.

The 2 and-a-half pallets of materials donated included "enormous amounts of art supplies, copy paper, scissors, glue, pencils, pens, markers and books," Sgt. 1st Class Marchert said.

The relationship between the soldiers and the children of Crossroads Elementary is nothing new. Since the unit arrived in March, the HHC soldiers visited the children every week during the school year spending time playing soccer, playing games to teach the children English and playing the sorts of games elementary kids play. At the end of the last school year, the kids were invited to Eagle Base for a mine-awareness class and pizza at Triggers with the troops. Now that school is starting again, both groups are glad to be getting back together.

"This is probably the best thing that

has happened to the kids in a while," said their teacher, Mersiha Pejzic, of the soldiers' commitment to the school. She added that the soldiers' visits help show that school is important. It also gives the children a chance to learn something new about the soldiers' culture and way of life.

The students of Dacula Middle School, Dacula Elementary School and Fort Daniel Elementary School, located in Gwinnett County, Ga., sent the supplies. The middle school students decided to help the kids of Bosnia by sending them some supplies after hearing about their difficult situation from Sgt. 1st Class Roy Marchert, a Dacula Middle School eighth grade history teacher serving a six-month rotation in Bosnia.

After the middle school began to collect supplies for the Bosnian children, the two elementary schools decided to help out too.

"The idea came about as I was e-mailing my students when I first got here in March," said Sgt. 1st Class Marchert, battalion civil affairs liaison for Task Force 1-121. "I started doing my school visits (here), and I just kind of talked to my



Many schools supplies were donated to the students of Crossroads Elementary School Sept. 3, during the soldiers of HHC, 1-121's visit. Sgt. 1st Class Roy Marchert, whose students in Georgia donated the supplies, hands a pencil box to Ivana Kresic.



Spc. Andrew Smith, HHC, TF 1-121, sits with Anela Audic as she looks through her box of new supplies.

students about the status of the schools here and things they needed."

Sgt. 1st Class Marchert was pleasantly surprised when his students, after "not being asked for (supplies), they read between the lines and said 'Hey, I think we can help.'" The students

worked with the local community to gather supplies through donations from their families and local businesses. "My students took it upon themselves at that time to organize a drive," said Sgt. 1st Class Marchert. "They did it all on their own and contacted the National Guard about trying to get (the supplies) sent over."

Crossroads Elementary is the fifth school that is benefiting from the donated supplies, and according to Sgt. 1st Class Marchert, the response from the teachers and students has been "extremely, extremely appreciative."

Spc. Timothy Harris, HHC, 1-121, said that this is a unique opportunity to get outside the wire, or base camp, and show the children that U.S. soldiers care. "They deserve the same opportunities as kids everywhere are having," said Spc. Harris.

"When you're on post all the time, it's hard to see that you're making a difference, but coming here it's good to see that you are making a difference in someone else's life," said Spc. Harris.

Dragdna Tadic, a student at the school, said that she "enjoys having the soldiers come to visit and play with them, and is grateful," for the school supplies.

Sgt. 1st Class Marchert added that his time in Bosnia working with the schools has shown him some of the hardships they face, how they continue to work toward educating the children and just how important education is. "It has been a very good learning experience for me as a teacher," said Sgt. 1st Class Marchert.



(Far left) As nightfall sets in, Spc. Larry Ruduseal, stands watch over the airfield on Eagle Base awaiting the arrival of a civilian plane. (Left) Going on 11:00 p.m., Spc. Ann Marie Bielefield with the Internal Reaction Force on Eagle Base, inspects a luggage carrier before it can enter the airfield.

Soldiers with the Internal Reaction Force are... On Call and On-the-Ball

Spc. Jarmusz spent a week with the Eagle Base guard force, working all shifts at multiple locations. This is the fourth of several articles chronicling his experiences.

Story and photos by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

It's 3:00 a.m. and you're sound asleep. Suddenly a knock on the door rouses you, and a voice yells, "Get dressed, there's trouble at the gate." Within a few minutes you and your team arrive to discover it was only a false bomb threat. This time it was a hoax; next time you may not be so lucky.

This scenario is just one of many that unfold for members of the Internal Reaction Force on Eagle Base.

The IRF is a seven-person team composed of guard force soldiers. By use of handheld radios, they are on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

"We can react within 15 minutes to any situation inside the wire," said Sgt. Ray Gibson, IRF noncommissioned officer with 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

Members of the IRF are tasked to handle a number of missions.

"We provide security for the explosive ordnance division, participate in escort missions for day trips for the safety of the soldiers, and provide additional security at the gates and perimeter if needed," said Sgt. Gibson.

They also check bunkers, fuel points, water points and communication centers for suspicious objects, such as bombs, on a weekly basis.

In addition to these tasks, the IRF provides security for Tuzla International Airport here on Eagle Base. Whenever a civilian aircraft lands or departs from the airport, the IRF is there to make sure no one tries to sneak on base or carry explosives on or off base.

But that's only half of what they do.

"We have a two-fold mission. Primarily, we serve as the reaction force for Eagle Base. Our secondary mission is to conduct presence patrols outside the wire within the local area," said Master Sgt. Jack Bartlett, operations sergeant/IRF NCO in charge, with 1-121. The IRF rotates its force every week, so it has soldiers with various military occupational specialties. Some have infantry backgrounds, others are Military Police or medics, Sgt. Gibson

said. "The main purpose of rotating soldiers through IRF is so they get a chance to break up the monotony of being on the wire," said Sgt. Gibson.

If you never get outside the gates to see Bosnia, you really wouldn't know you were in a foreign land, Sgt. Gibson said, "Over here, inside the wire, it's not like being in another country, it's like being stuck on a base back home."

Although soldiers are usually only attached to the IRF for one week through the entire six months, some soldiers are starting to make their second cycle through the IRF, said Sgt. Gibson.

Regardless of how many cycles they make, soldiers working for the IRF are trained to do their job. "We all have been trained in land navigation procedures, riot control tactics and in how to operate the Squad Automatic Weapon," said Sgt. Gibson.

When they are not on TIA missions or conducting operations inside the base, IRF soldiers get to go outside the wire on patrols. This is determined by the Base Defense Operations Center.

"In my opinion there are two types of presence patrols; those that put a barrier between you and the people, and those that don't. It's hard for them to trust you when there's a barrier," said Master Sgt. Bartlett. "When we go out, I try to eliminate that barrier. We dismount and let them know we are friendly," he said.

"I have raked hay in the field with the civilians. I want to learn what I can from them. We don't want our weapons to scare them," Master Sgt. Bartlett said.

When on a dismounted patrol, soldiers ask Bosnians about their families, the current conditions, what the government is doing for them and assures them they will report the information back to the Eagle Base BDOC. "They tell us of water shortages, electrical problems and of families being run out of their homes," said Master Sgt. Bartlett.

"They live here and they know this place. It's the best way to learn about their culture, their country and their war," said Sgt. Gibson. Members of the IRF also provide humanitarian aid, often times voluntarily. "Sometimes we'll take donated school supplies or items of need – such as food and clothing to refugee camps. We also volunteered to paint a school that hadn't been painted in 30 to 40 years," Master Sgt. Bartlett said.

The interaction assures civilians that U.S. soldiers are here to assist them, said Master Sgt. Bartlett. "We do it to help them out. It's great to go back to a school after we painted it and see the expressions on people's faces. People holler, 'my friend!' and you know they remember who you are."

Camp McGovern Misfits Take First Place in Tournament

Story and photos by
Spc. Daniel Lucas
Camp McGovern

With just three hours of practice, a team from Camp McGovern, comprised of soldiers from Headquarter and Headquarters Troop and Troop C, from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry dominated the softball tournament at Camp McGovern.

The still-undefeated squadron team, called the Misfits, played games against two teams, one from Camp Comanche (Team Comanche) and one from Forward Operating Base Morgan called Team Dragon, in a double elimination tournament. In a double elimination tournament, a team is out when it loses two games.

Each game had a limit of seven innings or 45 minutes. During each of the Misfits' games, they always won by at least eight runs, easily defeating the other team within the time allowed.

Nevertheless, the Misfits don't credit their success to

having a team of soldiers with baseball and softball experience in numerous leagues and tournaments — they credit their victory to their ability to play as a team.

"It is a group effort; there is no single action that makes a

Dwight Kennedy, Co. B, 148th Logistics Task Force who played relief pitcher and right fielder for the Misfits.

"This is the second time that I have been on a winning team. The first was earlier in the season in the Memorial Day

Comanche and Dragon fight for second place.

Team Comanche lost every game played against the Misfits, but they took out their anger on team Dragon, winning by eight runs.

After the tournament, Ed Winters, Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager for Camp McGovern, handed out the appropriate trophies to each team and said a couple words to the worn-out teams.

"This was the best softball tournament ever (here)," said Mr. Winters.

"No matter how small Camp McGovern is, there is always a positive attitude here, and these kind of activities keep it there," he added.

The Misfits' plan on playing against teams from Eagle Base in another test of the team's mettle.

"In my opinion, if the team from Camp McGovern were to play against any team from Eagle Base, it would be like the Atlanta Braves playing against a little league team. It just wouldn't be any competition," said Mr. Winters.

"We win because everybody is trying their best and never giving up — that is what makes a winner."

Sgt. Pete Moulton, HHT, 3-7 Cav.
Misfits' assistant coach

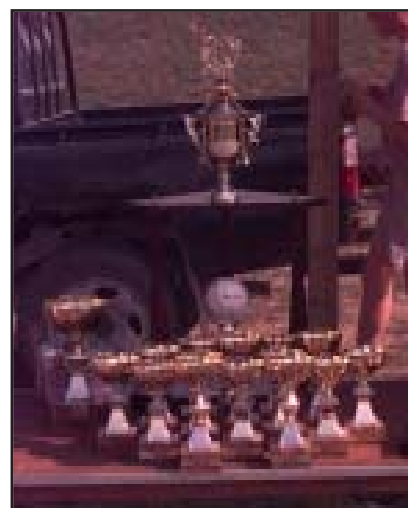
team win," said Sgt. Pete Moulton, HHT, 3-7 Cav. and assistant coach for the Misfits. "We win because everybody is trying their best and never giving up — that is what makes a winner."

"It feels good to be on a winning team," said Sgt. Tommy

tournament. We have a good team to compete and represent Camp McGovern."

The tournament began at noon and continued until 6:00 p.m.

After the Misfits pounded down both the other teams, they took a break and let



(Left) Sgt. Shawn Tiarks, Troop C, 3-7 Cav., hits a line drive during the Camp McGovern softball tournament.

(Above) Engraved trophies glisten in the sun during the six-hour tournament. The undefeated Misfits walked away with the tallest, placing first overall.

COMANCHE

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emergency," he said.

A large part of the MPs mission while in Bosnia was not only to police the troops at the camps but also to venture out into the countryside and interact with locals.

"We talk to the locals to find out if they have any problems or if anything has happened to them," said Spc. Rohme. "Sometimes we bring toys for the kids while on patrol. Both the kids and us really get a kick out of it," he said."

The troops from 4th Platoon used to patrol the southern area of the American sector, including towns Zvornik, Bratunac and Srebrenica. This patrolling included escorting an Army and Air Force Exchange Service vehicle to Forward Operating Base Conner, which doesn't have a post exchange, twice a week.

Because of recent restructuring due to the incoming SFOR 10, the soldiers patrolled the area around Tuzla prior to their redeployment. The 4th Platoon MPs feel their deployment has had a profound impact on their lives. "I think it's going to take many years, but with SFOR here, this nation is headed in the right direction," said Spc. Rohme.

EAGLE

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the 438th MP Co., also from Kentucky, and attached to the 223rd. "This (deployment) was a chance to see more of the world and to help those less fortunate than we are."

First Sgt. Willhoite spoke of a different perspective on his time here. "Us older guys have gotten a chance to know our old 'Cold War enemies' and find out they're people just like us," said 1st Sgt. Willhoite, who plans on retiring after he returns to Kentucky.

"We've gained a new way to look at things and move beyond the hurts of the past. They're no different than we are," he said.

More than anything, the 223rd's success can be measured by the ease with which the 372nd assumed their tasks and the calm changeover of power that occurred.

"The 223rd did an outstanding job, and we had a very smooth transition," said Capt. Davis.

In the end, 1st Sgt. Willhoite gave the unit one of the highest of a retiring soldier's compliments—that he was confident the soldiers he helped to train are fully capable to carry on their excellence in his absence. "I can feel secure about retiring."

McGOVERN

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they have served as a direct-support MP platoon for 3-7 Cav." said Capt. Judith Brown, platoon commander. "Their accomplishments are many and can be attributed to their great motivation and pride." Capt. Brown herself has changed, as she was promoted to her current rank early in the rotation.

Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence has another viewpoint.

"This was a rare opportunity for a National Guard MP unit to get to work with an active-duty unit in this type of situation. For them to take us into the fold and accept us speaks very highly of (our) ability," he said.

As the summer ends, so does the Wolf Pack's rotation in Bosnia. The new MP platoon taking their place, the 372nd MP Co, an Army Reserve unit from Maryland, is trained and prepared.

"Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence took us under his wing," said Sgt. Kenneth S. Kaczmarek, from the 372nd. "His people (spoke to) us one-on-one about the area as well as our duties. He gave us the best hand-over that he could — we weren't left with a single question."

The 223rd's work here and the job they did was noticed by Task Force commander, Lt. Col. Terry Ferrell.

"These MPs have done phenomenally," said he said. "They have done their job exceedingly well, they are truly one of a kind."



Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld tells reporters that "people who work in this building do so voluntarily, and they are brave people." Rumsfeld held his press conference in the Pentagon at about 6:15 p.m., about eight hours after a suspected hijacked commercial airliner smashed into the building Sept. 11, 2001. At the conference podium were (from left) Army Secretary Thomas White, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Henry Shelton, Rumsfeld, U.S. Sen. John Warner of Virginia and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan. Levin is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Warner is ranking minority party member of the committee. (Photo by Jim Garamone)

PENTAGON

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communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice," Bush said in a nationally televised address less than 12 hours after what is being called the worst act of terrorism in America's history. "We will make no distinction between those who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

"I've been in regular contact with the vice president, secretary of defense, the national security team, and my Cabinet," Bush added. "We have

"Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts,"

President George W. Bush

taken all appropriate security precautions to protect the American people. Our military at home and around the world is on high alert status, and we have taken the necessary security precautions to continue the functions of your government" Bush said he has conferred with congressional and world leaders "to assure them that we will do whatever is necessary to protect America and Americans."

A physical symbol of our nation's military, the Pentagon was built in 1941 out of reinforced concrete. It is laid out in five concentric pentagonal "rings," the "E" being the outermost and "A" the innermost. The jet cut the building like a knife. It did not penetrate all the way into the center courtyard, but did reach the "B" ring.

Beyond the heliport, where the crash occurred, authorities set up a triage site. Military medics and civilian emergency care providers worked together to provide aid. Civilian firefighters from many jurisdictions joined to fight the blaze.

Many officers, NCOs and civilians volunteered to aid emergency care providers in helping rescue victims. The volunteers staged on Washington Boulevard. Beyond them was a makeshift heliport that evacuated the most seriously injured to medical care.